

2008 ADE/CEF Promising Practices Awards Part I: Cover Sheet

Practice Name ParentLink Program
Name of Principal Dr. Elizabeth Hargrove
Official School Name Catalina Ventura School
School Mailing Address 6331 N. 39th Avenue Tel. () 602-841-7445 ext. 6746
School Website http://www.alhambra.k12.az.us
Phoenix 85019 Email Address tkillingsworth@alhambra.k12.az.us
City Zip

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate. If my program is recognized as a Promising Practice the contents of this application may be made available to the public.

B. Hargrove Date 11/28/07
(Principal's signature)

Name of Superintendent Dr. Jim Rice
District Name Alhambra School District Tel. (602) 336-2920
District Mailing 4710 N. 37th Avenue
Phoenix 85017 Email Address jrice@alhambra.k12.az.us
City Zip

I have reviewed the information in this package, including the eligibility requirements, and certify that to the best of my knowledge it is accurate.

James W. Rice Date Nov 29, 2007
(Superintendent's signature)

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Part II: Background Information

1. Category that best describes the area where the school is located:

- ☒ Urban or large central city ☐ Suburban
☐ Suburban school with characteristics typical of an urban area
☐ Small city or town in a rural area ☐ Rural

2. .5 Number of years the principal has been in her/his position at this school.

8 If less than three years, how long was the previous principal at this school?

3. Number of students enrolled at each grade level or its equivalent in applying school building:

Pre-K <u>125</u>	5th <u>120</u>	10th <u> </u>
1st <u>118</u>	6th <u>114</u>	11th <u> </u>
2nd <u>139</u>	7th <u>111</u>	12th <u> </u>
3rd <u>142</u>	8th <u>106</u>	
4th <u>117</u>	9th <u> </u>	
		TOTAL: <u>1,136</u>

4. Limited English proficient students in the school: 34.5 % 394 Total Number

Number of languages represented: 14 Specify languages: Primarily English and Spanish

5. Students who participate in free/reduced-priced meals: 80.5 % 915 Total Number

If this method is not a reasonably accurate estimate of the percentage of students from low-income families or the school does not participate in the federally-supported lunch program, specify a more accurate estimate, tell why the school chose it, and explain how it arrived at this estimate.

To answer the challenge of creating a parent – child learning environment that is safe, desirable, and flexible, Catalina Ventura is in its 9th year of implementation of the nationally recognized ParentLink Program. Teachers of Catalina Ventura School volunteer their time and enthusiasm by facilitating parent classes two to three evenings per month. Along with these class offerings, the school library provides extended hours and a Parent Resource Room stocked with materials available for checkout that support student achievement and promote the home-school connection.

As the primary component of ParentLink, an average of 23 parent classes are scheduled each year. Class titles have included, Spalding Phonics; Family Math; English for Spanish Speakers; Bully Free Classrooms; Parents for Character; and Character Counts Family Fun Night to name a few. A comprehensive course catalog is provided to parents at the beginning of the school year and the day of the class. Parents may also access the ParentLink webpage through our District website for details of upcoming classes.

Throughout the last eight years, the program has grown from hosting an average of 18 participants per class to our current average based on last year's data of 172 participants per class. As the program continues to expand, Catalina Ventura faces the challenge of continuing to improve the program and meet parents' needs to a greater degree. Using parent and teacher survey data, ParentLink began to align class offerings to be more interactive between parents and their children. This allowed us to concentrate on developing an interpersonal link between the parent and child, helping both parties become more familiar with state standards, while continuing to promote character development. This program consistently reminds parents of their value and contribution to their child's education and the part they play in the development or their child's character.

In addition to the genuine learning and new experiences gained, many parents reported that the quality family time is invaluable. In a recent English Learning class, monolingual parents expressed overwhelming joy and appreciation as they learned English concepts alongside their monolingual children.

Despite the rise in poverty (from 67% to 83% free and reduced lunch), we continue to increase parental learning and involvement. As we see this increase in parental involvement in the future, standardized test scores will continue to improve, and ParentLink will continue to prepare and encourage parents to instill in their children the traits of positive character.

ParentLink has made a significant difference in student achievement as measured by the Arizona Learns designation and No Child Left Behind requirements. Catalina Ventura School improved from a "Performing" label to "Performing Plus" under Arizona Learns during the time ParentLink has been in implementation. In addition, Catalina Ventura has made Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind requirements three of the last four years.

In an effort to meet the needs of our school community, we will continue to gather and carefully examine suggestions from staff and parents, making ParentLink at Catalina Ventura School *the* link for learning, sharing, and caring in our community.

There's no better educational partnership than a partnership that develops between the school, its students, and their parents. Parents are a child's first teacher, and Catalina Ventura School is helping its parents maintain that important role. By partnering together, we can ensure Catalina students are not only succeeding, but that they know what it means to be a person of good character.